

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for treating an interval of a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:

an outer tubular;

a sand control screen disposed within the outer tubular;

a slurry passageway formed between the sand control screen and outer tubular; and

a production pathway formed between the sand control screen and outer tubular, wherein, when the apparatus is in an operable position, the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore serves as a primary path for delivery of a fluid slurry, the production pathway serves as a secondary path for delivery of the fluid slurry and the slurry passageway serves as a tertiary path for delivery of the fluid slurry.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the production pathway serves as the secondary path for delivery of the fluid slurry if the primary path becomes blocked.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the slurry passageway serves as the tertiary path for delivery of the fluid slurry if the primary and secondary paths become blocked.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the slurry passageway is defined between a channel and the sand control screen.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 4 wherein the channel has outlets that are substantially aligned with outlets of the outer tubular.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising an inner tubular positioned between the outer tubular and the sand control screen.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the sand control screen is concentrically positioned within the outer tubular.

8. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 further comprising at least two slurry passageways.

9. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the slurry passageway and the production pathway do not have direct fluid communication therebetween.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein a gravel pack is formed in the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein a gravel pack is formed in the production pathway.

12. A method for treating an interval of a wellbore, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a sand control screen positioned within an outer tubular in the wellbore, the outer tubular and the sand control screen having a production pathway and a slurry passageway formed therebetween;

flowing a fluid slurry containing solids through the slurry passageway such that the fluid slurry exits the slurry passageway and enters a region between the outer tubular and the wellbore;

depositing a first portion of the solids in the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore; and

depositing a second portion of the solids in the production pathway.

13. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of flowing the fluid slurry containing solids through a primary path defined by the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore.

14. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of flowing the fluid slurry containing solids through a secondary path defined by the production pathway if the primary path becomes blocked.

15. The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the step of flowing a fluid slurry containing solids through the slurry passageway further comprises flowing the fluid slurry containing solids through a tertiary path defined by the slurry passageway if the primary and secondary paths become blocked.

16. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising defining the slurry passageway between a channel and the sand control screen.

17. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the step of flowing a fluid slurry containing solids through the slurry passageway such that the fluid slurry exits the slurry passageway further comprises discharging the fluid slurry containing solids through outlets of a channel that are substantially aligned with outlets of the outer tubular.

18. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of positioning an inner tubular between the outer tubular and the sand control screen.

19. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of concentrically positioning the sand control screen within the outer tubular.

20. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising defining at least two slurry passageways between the outer tubular and the sand control screen.

21. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of preventing direct fluid communication between the slurry passageway and the production pathway.

22. A method for treating an interval of a wellbore, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a sand control screen positioned within an outer tubular in the wellbore, the outer tubular and the sand control screen having a production pathway and a slurry passageway formed therebetween;

injecting a fluid slurry containing solids into a primary path defined by the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore;

diverting at least a first portion of the fluid slurry containing solids into a secondary path defined by the production pathway; and

diverting at least a second portion of the fluid slurry containing gravel into a tertiary path defined by the slurry passageway.

23. The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the step of diverting at least a first portion of the fluid slurry containing solids into a secondary path defined by the production pathway further comprises the step of diverting at least the first portion of the fluid slurry containing solids into the secondary path defined by the production pathway if the primary path becomes blocked.

24. The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the step of diverting at least a second portion of the fluid slurry containing gravel into a tertiary path defined by the slurry passageway further comprises the step of diverting at least the second portion of the fluid slurry containing gravel into the tertiary path defined by the slurry passageway if the primary and secondary paths become blocked.

25. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising the step of depositing a first portion of the solids in the region between the outer tubular and the wellbore.

26. The method as recited in claim 25 further comprising the step of depositing a second portion of the solids in the production pathway.

27. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising defining the slurry passageway between a channel and the sand control screen.



28. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising the step of discharging the fluid slurry containing solids through outlets of a channel that are substantially aligned with outlets of the outer tubular.

29. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising the step of positioning an inner tubular between the outer tubular and the sand control screen.

30. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising the step of concentrically positioning the sand control screen within the outer tubular.

31. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising defining at least two slurry passageways between the outer tubular and the sand control screen.

32. The method as recited in claim 22 further comprising the step of preventing direct fluid communication between the slurry passageway and the production pathway.